

Prime Minister day in and day out, I would say it was well and good. But that is not the kind of performance the right hon. gentleman puts on for the members of the House, who protect our freedom and liberty. He laughs at us; he gets up in the middle of our speeches and walks out; he sits down and hoots at us when we ask him legitimate questions; he stands up and says, "If you are going to heckle me, I am not going to talk to you; I am going to take my doll home and play."

An hon. Member: That is pretty childish.

Mr. Aiken: It is childish.

Mr. Coates: That is the kind of Prime Minister we have. That is not the man who put on such a performance last night on television. They are different men; they are Jekyll and Hyde. I do not know which of these two men wields the greatest power that has ever been assumed by any individual in this country.

An hon. Member: Mr. Hyde does.

Mr. Coates: I am afraid that instead of Dr. Jekyll, it is Mr. Hyde.

An hon. Member: Are you Barnum, or Bailey?

Mr. Coates: I will take the hon. member into the circus, because he is the biggest clown you will ever see.

An hon. Member: There's a sucker born every minute.

Mr. Coates: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) had this to say yesterday about the government's action, as reported at page 195 of *Hansard*:

The War Measures Act provides for the possibility of very sweeping interference with what we ordinarily consider to be the civil rights and liberties of Canadians. It is true that the government has presented and adopted regulations which do not invoke all the powers of the War Measures Act but, the War Measures Act having been invoked, there certainly are many additional powers in reserve which the government could utilize by regulation at any time. Furthermore, the extensive powers described in the regulations are to be in effect until April 30, 1971, a very considerable length of time. These powers apply, of course, throughout the country.

It is my belief, Mr. Speaker—I want to make this abundantly clear—that it was not necessary for the government at 4 a.m. yesterday to go to the extreme of invoking the War Measures Act. But now this has been done, now that the government has taken this action, now that this law is in effect, I say the government ought to move forward and produce for this House specific legislation giving the power necessary to combat the FLQ and any other subversive organization in this country. The legislation should be in effect for whatever period the government may deem necessary. But I say that whatever reason there was for invoking the War Measures Act, the inherent value of using that legislation has now gone.

Surely, the most significant reason the government can put forward for adopting an act giving it such sweeping powers as the right of immediate arrest is that surprise

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was needed to round up the insurgents. The government did not want to take the chance of their doing any more damage. Now that the element of surprise has gone, why does the government say, "We want this power for an additional six months and we are not even willing to consider giving it up before then"?

Why cannot the government, if it knows the facts, come to this House with them. It says it knows the facts and on the basis of those facts it has invoked the War Measures Act. If that is the case, surely the government must know what is required by way of special criminal law that would allow it to deal with the problems in Quebec. If that is the case, why does the government not bring legislation before us immediately so that we may consider and discuss it in this chamber which is the embodiment of freedom, liberty and the democratic institutions of this country.

The government produced the regulations it wanted, all-embracing as they are, in the short period of time that was available to it. Therefore, why cannot it bring forward special legislation that would give it the same powers but would not give the Prime Minister and the cabinet the additional, all-embracing power that abridges the liberty of every Canadian, which liberty may be eliminated if that be the wish of the federal government and the attorney general of any province. Why cannot the government make that move now, instead of 6½ months from now? Why cannot it now produce the legislation which it feels is required in order to stamp out the FLQ and other terrorist organizations in the province of Quebec?

Because I believe the power that has been assumed by this government is far greater than it need be and will bring more danger than good to the future of our nation, I wish to amend the motion to read as follows:

The House approves the action of the government in invoking the powers of the War Measures Act to meet the state of apprehended insurrection in the province of Quebec as communicated to the Prime Minister by the government of Quebec and the civic authorities of Montreal and further approves the orders and regulations tabled today by the Prime Minister on the clear understanding that the proclamation invoking the powers as contained in the regulations will be revoked on or before October 30, 1970, unless a resolution authorizing their extension beyond the date specified has been approved by the House.

Mr. Bell: Let the government get around that one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would ask the hon. member to send a copy of his amended motion to the Chair.

Mr. Dubé: May we also have a copy of it, Mr. Speaker?

• (3:30 p.m.)

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, I introduce my remarks by pointing out to the House that in my part of the country laws are not the most important element of our lives. In Coast Chilcotin we prefer fewer laws, not more. There are a great many who hanker for the good old days when laws were few and